

PRENDERGAST A MINE LAYER IN SCHOOL ZONE

Controller Attacks Bill
Giving Education Board
Unlimited Cash.

"MOST MANDATORY" MEASURE I'VE SEEN"

Churchill Denies Knowledge of
Proposed Law—Condemns
Plan to Cut Membership.

The Board of Education, represented by its president, Thomas W. Churchill, and the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, championed by Controller Prendergast, waged yesterday a merry battle, in which a heavy broadside of statements was exchanged.

As ammunition the school authorities hurled criticism of the attempt by the city to have the Board of Education reduced to a body of nine members. The Controller bombarded an alleged effort of the educators to have introduced in the Legislature a bill that would make the finances of the board independent of the Board of Estimate.

"It is the most monumental specimen of mandatory legislation that has ever been proposed," declared Mr. Prendergast.

Over the telephone last night Mr. Churchill said:

"I do not know what the Controller is talking about. His statement of what the bill is in general, I shall have to wait until I see it introduced, if there is to be one presented, before I can say anything about it. I have no idea what the bill Mr. Prendergast speaks of can be."

Says It May Be Retaliation.

The Controller stated that possibly the bill, which he said was taken to Albany last week by Henry R. M. Cook, auditor of the Board of Education, was an answer to the attempt to reduce the size of the Board of Education.

"The people of New York might as well understand that this is a proposition to permit a body of men, not one of whom is an elected official, to tax the people of the city to an extent which the judges of these appointive officials may make a dictate," Controller Prendergast said.

"At a time when we are endeavoring to get rid of mandatory legislation in order to be able to reduce the tax rate on the people of the city, the Board of Education is endeavoring to introduce in the Legislature the most monumental specimen of mandatory legislation that has ever been proposed."

Mr. Churchill had something to say upon the question of reducing the Board of Education.

"The bill now pending in the Legislature apparently represents," he declared, "an attempt on the part of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to secure control of the city's educational policy and there is grave reason to believe that it may be the entering wedge to a salaried board of education, which, in the minds of those best qualified to judge, would be nothing short of a calamity."

"In that event public education in this city would be in the impressive words of the judges of the Court of Appeals in the Gutman decision, 'one of the most corrupt municipal policies and to any and every general mismanagement that may prevail in city departments.'"

The bill which the Board of Education auditor is said to have taken to Albany has not been introduced. It is alleged that it gives the Board of Education the right to demand of the city all the money it needs for school purposes, and to disburse its funds without restriction by the Board of Estimate or audit by the Department of Finance.

Right to Fix Salaries.

The appointment of the members of the board is made subject to nomination by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. The Board of Education would also have exclusive right to fix salaries, it is said.

Those opposed to the bill declare that it was prepared with the knowledge and consent of the Board of Education, if not by them.

"It is inconceivable that Mr. Cook, an employee of the board, would have dared to assume the responsibility of bringing about the introduction of so far-reaching and radical a measure if his course did not have the sanction of his superiors," Controller Prendergast said yesterday. "It would appear that they were afraid to assume the responsibility for this action, in the first place, and have used Mr. Cook simply as an agent to bring the matter before the public."

When the above was read to Mr. Churchill he declared that he had no knowledge of the matter to which Mr. Prendergast alluded.

Provided for in the bill is an amendment to Section 1062, which proposes to constitute the Board of Education as a separate and distinct corporation from the municipality, and directs that all claims against the Board of Education shall be presented to that board for its action and adjustment. The principal argument advanced against the Board of Education bill is the burden of taxation that might be placed upon the citizens.

Mr. Churchill's criticism of the Board of Estimate's endeavor to reduce the Board of Education from a body of forty-six members to one of nine showed evidences of being prepared with great care. It was printed while Controller Prendergast's statement was typewritten.

The report of Frank J. Goodnow and Frederic C. Howe to the Committee of School Inquiry, the statement declared, first recommended the reduction of the Board of Education. No facts, it was stated, have been brought forward to substantiate the charge that the Board of Education is unwieldy.

Defends the Board.

The chief argument for the nine-member board is that in other cities the tendency has been to reduce the size of school boards. The population of New York is equal to that of the next four largest cities in the country, Mr. Churchill pointed out, and the total membership of their school boards was sixty-three, whereas that of New York is only forty-six.

The many communities of the city, he contended, are kept in close touch with the school authorities by having the large number of members. He denied that much time was lost in "oratory," as charged, and he insisted the attendance was good.

"The fact that certain business from time to time were due not to any fault on the part of the Board of Education, but to statutory restrictions under which it worked, was stated, as was the fact that a large board made it almost impossible for any political combination to get control."

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Father Mitchelbocker Sketch Made by Five N. Y. Cartoonists



Composit of Knickerbocker and Mayor Mitchel Drawn by
Briggs, Carter, Schultze, Marcus and Rehse While
"Movie" Man Turns His Reel.

Father Mitchelbocker has his portrait sketched yesterday afternoon.

Perhaps you don't know the man. Well, it is not surprising, because he is a composite person, a recent addition to the old Dutch stock that once made Manhattan famous.

He represents what the newspaper illustrators think of Mayor John P. Mitchel in particular and of New York City in general. For a newcomer, eligible for the social register, he created a remarkable stir. No one artist was intrusted with the task of sketching his profile. Five of the cartoonists who add daily dashes of mirth to New York journalism combined to create this composite portrait of a composite character. It all happened on City Hall steps between 3 and 4 p. m.

"Bob" Carter, of "The Evening Sun," began it. He pushed a black crayon around the promontory of the nose and indicated the bulge of the forehead.

"Bunny" Schultze, of "The Press," added a foxy Grandpa expression around the mouth and suggested, with one sweep, the contour of the chin.

Meanwhile, everything had been quiet, except for the buzz of the motor picture machine. A crowd of one hundred Sunday afternoon strollers was keeping a traffic policeman busy and the artists were learning that sketching on City Hall steps has its disadvantages.

After the curious persons had been shoved back to the curb line, Edwin Marcus of "The Times," found one sketch in several brands of hair decorated with a Sunday-go-to-meeting bow of ribbon. George Rehse, of "The World," added the finishing touches.

that is to maintain, if possible, the supremacy of England in international affairs. Upon the sea she uses the strong arm because of her great commercial interests and by reason of her powerful navy. Upon the land she uses cunning and intrigue.

"Is it any wonder that the world has been in trouble constantly by reason of her arrogant attempt to dominate the affairs? I say again there will be no peace until other power, predominate in the council chambers of the world and England is made to adjust her foreign policy to the proper interests of others."

Mr. Carmody said that whatever sympathies Irishmen in America may extend to belligerents abroad, they must never let the ideals of those nations take the place of the ideals of America. The inability of guns and gunboats to maintain law, order and peace in Europe, he said, must strengthen the devotion and increase the love which Irishmen have when they salute the flag of their adopted country.

The Academy of Music was filled and the former Attorney General was enthusiastically applauded. Representative Herman A. Metz presided.

Resolutions were adopted urging an alliance between Ireland and Germany against England and calling on "the utmost to aid in bringing about a joint victory over 'our common enemy.'"

CHURCH UNION DEFEATED

One Hackensack Congregation Against Consolidation.

Hackensack, N. J., Feb. 28. There will be no consolidation of the Calvary and Baptist churches in Hackensack, despite the fact that the joint conference committee of the two churches had voted 8 to 1 in favor of the union.

The Calvary congregation, from whence sprang the union idea, voted down the proposition, 56 to 24. This down the throat to a lively and controversial, for George B. Griffin, lay preacher, in discussing the matter, declared that the suggestion of consolidation came from those desirous of a "new big church and a \$3,000 preacher." He also intimated that the methods employed in this effort were really those found in political circles.

Now the Calvary church has one regret, at least, for when the suggestion of consolidation was first made the Rev. Adelbert Chapman, pastor for nine years, tendered his resignation, to take effect May 1. The First Church is at present without a pastor, the Rev. Dr. James Lisk having retired last July.

STUDY PLAN FITS ONLY FEW PUPILS

School Requirements Discourage Many Children, Says Teacher.

WAY INDICATED TO EQUALIZE WORK

Indiana Errs in Attempt to Put Industrial Training Into Classrooms

By HENRIETTA RODMAN.

"The amount of work required of all children in the public schools is right for about one-fourth of them," said Dr. David H. Holmes, of the Eastern District High School, at a meeting of the Teachers' League on Friday.

"Twenty-five per cent of the children can't do the required work, and are discouraged and, even to some extent, demoralized by constant failure. Another fourth of the children can do the work, but with excessive effort. The children who do it are overstrained; the rest neglect it."

"The last 25 per cent can do more than the required amount of work, and seem to be retarded and bored by the curriculum."

"We have been trying to make the children fit the curriculum. We have succeeded in making the children who remain in school fairly uniform, but we drive most of the children out of the schools."

It is true that we do not want the children to be driven out of the schools; neither do we want them reduced to a dead level of uniformity. But we are actually doing these things, and we shall continue to do them until we change the present system.

"Various important changes are now being made. I have one more to suggest. It will require no more of the city's money or of the teachers' time than does the present system."

"I propose that each grade shall be divided into four sections: A, of the pupils who do the best work in a given subject; B, C and D, of the slower and slower children."

"Each section will go as fast as it can and no faster. Normal children will be in different sections in different subjects. The work in all sections will be equal in quality, but different in amount. Thus teachers as well as pupils will gain enormously in thoroughness, honesty, serenity and self-respect."

If I were the Board of Education I'd submit Dr. Holmes' plan to the 600-odd or otherwise—principals in the city. If none of them showed conclusively that it can't be done, and one said 'let's try it,' I'd have it tried. It sounds like a real idea.

At any rate, it is a genuine specimen of the teacher's "initiative," so-called and publicly taught by our Board of Education. What we ask, will be some of this rare flower?

In the absence of F. P. A. I am tempted to bet anything to anything that it will be ignored.

Principal Frederick L. Luqueer, of Public School 152, Brooklyn, recently suggested to the Board of Superintendents that the grades of teachers should be dispensed with entirely, and that special reports be substituted in the case of inefficiency, renewal of license, increase of salary and plan in his school, but the superintendents did not believe such an experiment in one school wise.

—The Globe.

Another flower born to waste its sweetness on the Fifty-ninth Street air.

The State of Indiana has enacted a law which is an example to the rest of the Union of the wrong way to put industrial training into the public schools.

In "The New Republic" Professor John Dewey writes of it:

"The law very properly makes provision for part time and evening classes—in other words, for 'continuation' schools. But it provides for state and only if the instruction in them deals with the subject matter of the employment, or is complementary to such employment."

In line with this requirement the official statement says: "It is important to provide a means whereby the work of those who have not 'blind alley' themselves for more skilled occupations, but who have this aim cannot be state-aided."

"It also rules that training which aims at fitting workers for more remunerative or more skilled trades than those in which they are actually employed cannot be aided by the state funds. The classes 'must give instruction which will actually add to the stock-in-trade of the wage earner who is already entered upon the skilled calling he expects to follow as his life work.'"

But even this statement is too mild. The intention of the law seems to aim at keeping as the life work of a wage-earner that upon which he has actually entered, even if he might himself wish a change. For the statement goes on:

"A practical farmer would not be eligible to enter a class in plumbing or a plumber to a class in market gardening in a state-aided vocational evening class."

"One of the chief evils of the present state of affairs is the accidental and unintelligent way in which workers, especially of the youthful age, find their jobs. What, then, shall we say of a law which says that state-aided instruction is forbidden except in these accidentally selected jobs? What shall we say of a measure which is expressly constructed to forbid aid to 'schools giving general industrial or pre-vocational courses designed to enable students to test or determine their vocational aims, or to lay a necessary or helpful basis for future vocational work?'"

I insert the quotation marks to assure the reader that the reduction ad absurdum is not of my own making.

Add the fact that the youth for whom the law is mainly intended cannot, for the most part, possibly be engaged in very skilled callings; that they are mostly engaged in running odd jobs or operating machines that require little but automatic feeding, and the law which requires their instruction to be confined to what they are already doing certainly has little to do with the practical needs of the workers."

Two thousand distinguished educators voted last week, at the superintendents' meeting in Cincinnati, in favor of small boards of education.

I didn't see it in "The Globe," but it's so.

At any rate, they are in charge of the public schools of the U. S. A.

One of the arguments against a small Board of Education is that Mr. Rockefeller favors it.

In spite of my own conviction that Mr. Rockefeller is a wrong as often as anybody can be, I am forced to admit that, according to the law of probabilities he must be right once in a way.

This is once.

"Madam: There is at present before the Cities Committee the Hamilton-

Fertig educational bill. Among the many desirable provisions in this bill is the equalization of the Regents' passing marks required of the day high and evening high school students. There never has been in the past any justification for this discrimination. In my opinion the evening high school student represents the highest type of student in the entire school system of this city. The Hamilton-Fertig bill deserves the wholehearted support of every right-minded citizen. Yours very truly,

"P. T. WARD,

"President of Associated Evening High School Alumni."

There can be no doubt of the fine quality of men and women who add to a working day of eight or nine, or even ten, hours two hours of night work, to secure an "education." Everything that can be done should be done to forward their efforts. That they should be handicapped by the requirement of a passing mark higher than is required of "day" students is intolerable.

LAWMAKERS TO AID SUFFRAGE CAUSE

Many Senators and Representatives Will Be Active in Campaign.

Washington, Feb. 28. Several members of the Senate and House have promised to help by speeches and otherwise in the suffrage campaign after March 4, if an extra session does not interfere with their plans. More than half of the members are from non-suffrage states.

Senator Clapp, of Minnesota, who is a favorite with the suffragists as a campaign speaker, has promised to speak wherever he is needed during March. Senator Shafroth, of Colorado, has arranged to speak several times in New Jersey and possibly in New Hampshire. Mrs. Shafroth will accompany her husband and will also speak.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, will speak at a big mass meeting in Boston next month and will be called on for New Jersey. Senator Sheppard, of Texas, will speak in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and Senator Walsh, of Montana, has promised his help.

To Talk in Two States.

Representative Stevens, from the non-suffrage state of New Hampshire, who will speak in the New Jersey campaign, as well as work for suffrage in his own state, has two engagements in New Jersey this week, but after March 4 will go to New Hampshire, where there is a bill for Presidential and municipal suffrage before the Legislature, with strong chances of passing.

Representatives Bryan, of Washington, and Mondell, of Wyoming, are others who will represent suffrage states in the coming campaigns. These seasoned suffragists are considered especially valuable, as they can give direct testimony on what women have already done with the vote.

Many other members are counted upon for help in their own states. Among these are Representative Baker, who will speak in New Jersey, and Representative Porter, of Pennsylvania, who will speak in his own district.

Will Work in Minnesota.

Representative Manahan, who is going back to Minnesota to practice law, will leave Washington immediately after the closing of the session and expects to arrive in St. Paul in time to help toward the passage of the suffrage bill now before the Minnesota Legislature.

Representative Abernethy, of Alabama, who made a strong speech in favor of suffrage in the House, though he voted against the Mondell amendment, is planning to help with suffrage in Alabama, where a suffrage amendment is before the Legislature. Representative Hobson, long regarded as the suffrage champion of the South, is another Alabamian who will render the cause good service in the next few months.

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